

REMARKS

With entry of this Amendment, claims 2, 16, and 54 are pending. Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite an “isolated or a purified protein of a *Leishmania* parasite.” This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 7, line 3 to page 8, line 5. Applicants also added new claim 54, which is supported by the specification at, for example, page 21, lines 7-15; page 25, lines 25 and 26; and page 26, lines 11 and 12 . Accordingly, these claim amendments do not add new matter.

The specification has been amended to correct sequence identifier numbers. The corrections make the descriptions of the sequences as provided in the specification consistent with the sequence identifiers in the Sequence Listing. Thus, these corrections do not introduce new matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Office’s withdrawal of several of the prior rejections and objections to the claims. Specifically, the Office withdrew the rejection of claims 2, 3, 16, 18, 19, 22, and 36-53 under 35 U.S.C. §101; the objection to claims 2, 3, 16-22, and 36-53; the written description rejection of claims 2, 16, 18, 19, 22, and 36-53 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; the enablement rejection of claims 2, 16, 18, 19, 22, and 36-53 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; and the rejection of claims 2, 16, 18, 19, 22, and 36-53 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

The Office now rejects claims 2 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. Applicants address this rejection below.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 2 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for reciting a “purified protein involved in the virulence of a *Leishmania* parasite.” According to the Office, this phrase is a relative term because

the standard for determining predominant expression and most virulent isolates is not defined. The Office also contends that it is unclear how the protein is involved in virulence or how the term "involved" should be defined.

Solely to advance prosecution and without acquiescing in the rejection, Applicants amended independent claim 2 to recite an "isolated or a purified protein of a *Leishmania* parasite, wherein the protein has SEQ ID NO:2." Because this amendment removes the terms that the Office found indefinite, this amendment renders the rejection of claims 2 and 16 moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Office withdraw this rejection.

Conclusions

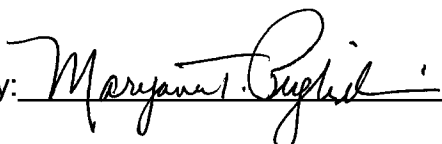
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of claims 2, 16, and 54.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____

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